

Rural District of St. Faith's
and Aylsham

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the
Senior Sanitary Inspector

(H. S. HAWKINS. A.M.I.S.E.)

1949

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Inspector under Petroleum Acts:

H. S. HAWKINS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Assistant Surveyor:

L. ROBINSON, A.R.I.C.S., M.R.SAN.I.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. R. FRYER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

R. COLENZO, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

G. W. SANGER, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (From 30.5.49).

G. R. WHITE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (To 30.3.49).

Chief Clerk:

R. J. MITTON, F.N.I.C.S. (From 14.2.49).

Clerical Staff:

MISS K. SCOTT.

MRS. R. M. PAGE (To 7.7.49).

MISS M. GOOCH (From 24.10.49).

M. DUFFIELD (From 20.4.49).

G. HOBSON (On Government Course).

P. OAKLEY (On Government Course).

C. DARLEY (On Government Course).



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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.),

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faith's & Aylsham

NORFOLK

For the Year ending 31st December, 1949

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1949.

There has been an increase of 440 in the estimated population since 1948. Half of this increase is accounted for by the excess of births over deaths.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

A mild winter was followed by a very dry spring. The summer was extremely hot and the warm weather went on far into October. The year generally was remarkable for a lack of rain. The rainfall for the year was 20.62 inches compared with our annual average for East Anglia of 24.79. Apart from its effect upon the vegetable crops, the small rainfall caused anxiety about the water supply of those dependent upon shallow wells.

VITAL STATISTICS

There were 54 fewer live births and 10 more deaths registered this year than in 1948. The birth rate (16.5) thus follows the downward trend for the whole country and is now slightly below the national rate (16.7).

The death rate (10.8) has risen very slightly but is still well below the national figure of (11.7). For comparison with other areas a comparability factor has been given by the Registrar General for the first time since 1939. This factor applied to the crude death rate gives a local adjusted rate of 9.94. Infectious disease has caused 23 deaths. These diseases were pneumonia (9), pulmonary tuberculosis (8), influenza (5) and measles (1). There were 61 deaths from cancer which was 2 more than in 1948. The total male deaths exceed the total female by 9 which is an exact reversal of the position last year. Accidents accounted for 17 deaths of which there were 5 suicides and 1 accident.

The infant mortality rate (33.22) is lower than last year (35), but just above the national figure of 32. There were 20 deaths of infants under 1 year, and 13 of these died within a month of birth, 11 of them in their first week. A curious feature of these figures is the huge preponderance of male infants over female namely 17 to 3. The survival rate of the male infant is never so good as that of the female, but this great excess is worthy of note. The causes of infant deaths could be described as inevitable in 11, possibly preventable in 1 and wholly preventable, because they were due to accidents and infections, in 8.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 465 cases of infectious disease notified during the year compared with 583 in 1948. The reduced figure for whooping cough could account for the whole of this difference, only 36 cases being notified compared with 150 in 1948. Scarlet fever was less prevalent, but there were three times as many cases of infective hepatitis. Poliomyelitis again gave cause for anxiety although there were not so many cases as in the great epidemic year of 1947.

Scarlet Fever,

Fifty-five cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 71 in 1948. Again school children were the chief sufferers, 43 cases occurring between the ages of 5 and 15.

This is the first year that special preventive measures have been taken in schools, namely, the swabbing of class and home contacts of each case and the exclusion and treatment by streptocides of all the profuse nose and throat carriers found.

Although it is too early yet to estimate the full effect of these measures, it is interesting to note that the total number of cases has been reduced by a quarter. In addition, only 13 parishes have been affected this year compared with 19 in 1948.

The disease continued to be mild and there were no reports of the more severe type of case seen recently in some parts of England. It is hoped that routine treatment by streptocides will reduce and finally eliminate the heart and kidney complications that used to be quite common. There were no deaths and only 9 cases were admitted to hospital.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Measles was not quite so prevalent this year and although 107 cases out of 255 occurred in children under 5 no cases of pneumonia were reported. There was one death, a child of school age living under conditions of bad overcrowding. Considering the number of young children affected, this can be considered quite satisfactory.

Whooping Cough was much less prevalent only 36 cases being notified, half of these were in children under school age and there were no deaths or complications reported.

Diphtheria.

Again I am glad to report that no case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The last case in this district occurred in August, 1947.

Poliomyelitis.

The general increased incidence of poliomyelitis affected this district and 17 cases were reported. The relative immunity of the younger groups was again apparent only 3 cases were under 15. All but one of these cases were treated in hospital. The peak of the epidemic was reached later than in 1947, 10 cases being notified in November. A small outbreak at a service establishment accounted for 8 cases, and while there was no evidence that any of these were caused by, or responsible for, other cases in the district it is interesting to note that 6 civilian cases did occur about the same time in two neighbouring parishes.

The only points of interest were that two cases occurred in the same household, a father and son, and that another case was a direct contact of a case in another district.

There were no deaths and no severe complications. Although 5 cases were discharged with some residual weakness, it was anticipated that all would make a complete recovery within a few months.

Summing up I can say that the poliomyelitis of 1949 has left no permanent scar on our population.

Infective Hepatitis (Epidemic Jaundice).

There have been nearly three times as many cases of infective hepatitis, but the disease has been less widespread, only 13 parishes being affected this year against 19 in 1948.

The small local epidemic at Hellesdon reported last year, continued throughout 1949 with one or two cases nearly each month. Buxton, Coltishall, Hevingham and Reepham each had small groups of cases during the year, the other affected parishes showing one or two cases only.

No deaths or complications have been reported. Most cases occurred between the ages 5-35 about half of them being of school age. It is difficult to account for this increased prevalence unless the hot, dry weather had any effect. It is well known that climatic conditions tend to affect the incidence of another virus disease, namely poliomyelitis, but the reason is not wholly understood.

Enteric Group

Only one case of dysentery was notified in a patient of 42. There were no cases of typhoid or paratyphoid.

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary tuberculosis caused 8 deaths in 1949 and 27 new cases were notified; 8 cases of the non-pulmonary type were notified, but no deaths were registered from this cause. This gives a case mortality of 0.22, less than half the national rate of 0.45.

The County Medical Officer has furnished statistics for Tuberculosis in advance of the publication of his Annual Report. The following tables show the comparison between the County and District rates:—

<i>Tuberculosis case rate per 1,000 population, 1949</i>					
<i>Area</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>
County of Norfolk ...	...	161	0.45	80	0.23
St. Faith's & Aylsham ...	...	27	0.74	8	0.22

<i>Tuberculosis Mortality rate per 1,000 population, 1949</i>					
<i>Area</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>
County of Norfolk ...	...	100	0.28	13	0.04
St. Faith's & Aylsham ...	...	8	0.22	—	—
England & Wales (all forms of the disease) ...	...	—	0.45	—	—

There were 208 cases on the register at the end of the year, an increase of 3 since 1948.

Although the figures are very small there is still the tendency for the older male and the young female groups to show a larger incidence. This bears out the trend of the national figures for some years now and no real explanation has ever been advanced as to why more young women and older men should develop tuberculosis.

The two factors affecting the susceptibility to the disease which seem to have been proved beyond dispute are stress, mental and physical, and nutrition. Preventive measures can therefore only be taken with these factors in mind.

With regard to the young woman, the stress may well be largely nutritional. Wholtime employment combined with household duties must entail the expenditure of an excessive amount of energy. In her most susceptible age period 15-30 the young woman leaves school, starts work, marries and has a young family, possibly still continuing her employment, whole or part time. It is an age when vanity, social exercise and athletics play a

major part. The high cost of clothing may well limit the money spent on food. Late nights in not specially well-ventilated places and sometimes excessive physical activity during holidays and week-ends all must tend to lower the resistance of the young woman.

A special responsibility lies on the mother or housewife of the home from which teen-agers go out to work. Wisdom in the choice of diet, insistence on adequate meals and a careful eye on general physical condition would do much to prevent the overstrain which is so often the precursor of tuberculosis.

As for the young housewife and mother, she should not be expected to work outside the home if she has a young family and I should like to see many more schemes for childminders and sitters-in to give her a chance of adequate relaxation and rest.

The cause of the increased incidence and mortality among the older men is still a matter of conjecture. This age group has been the one most subjected to the strain of war, the elder ones being survivors of 1914-1918 and the middle-aged those who bore most of the arduous civilian duties from 1939-1945. No doubt, in addition, the uncertainties of life in the post-war world must bear heavily on the fathers of growing families.

It is specially gratifying to note that no child under 15 died of tuberculosis during the year. It is hoped that it will be possible to prevent any further child deaths from this cause by sanatorium training of the infectious case, good housing of the family and ultimately the testing of all young contacts with their subsequent protection by B.C.G. vaccination if found susceptible.

Tuberculosis is still one of the gravest diseases affecting the community and it is greatly to be deplored that recent health legislation has tended to widen the gulfs between the officials dealing with its various aspects. Only the closest co-ordination between the diagnostic, curative, after-care and preventive services can hope to effect real improvement in the position. To this end we need round-table conferences at all levels to devise a really effective plan of campaign.

Food Poisoning.

There were 11 cases of food-poisoning notified during the year, representing 4 separate incidents. The largest single outbreak was at Marsham where 6 persons, 5 in one household and a sixth in a neighbouring house, were found to be infected with salmonella typhimurium. Medical advice was not sought until nearly the end of the outbreak by which time there was only one patient and several convalescent carriers. Extensive investigations revealed no positive evidence of the source of the infection. The generally poor standard of storage and handling may have been responsible for contamination of food by rats or mice, while the proximity of cow and

duck manure, or polluted well water may have been the operative factor. Steps were taken to provide a main water supply and to improve the general standards of the household chiefly concerned. No further cases were discovered and the carriers were all free from infection in a relatively short space of time.

A small group of three cases occurred in one household, but no causative organism was identified.

Two single cases were notified quite unconnected with each other and again neither the cause nor the source of the infection were found.

An outbreak amongst children using a school canteen was reported by the Head Teacher, but extensive enquiries failed to find the source or cause of the infection. The symptoms were very mild and recovery was rapid and complete. The whole incident lasted about a week, with a few cases occurring each day. No notifications were received in respect of any of the cases.

In view of the large number of school canteens opened recently I feel that their general standard of food hygiene must be high. The pre-packing of ice-cream and the better supply of wrapping paper must have reduced the incidence of food poisoning, while the better equipment now installed in many food shops must have improved the cleanliness and hygiene of food handling generally. There is still room for improvement in this direction and every effort should be made to persuade members of the food trade to provide the maximum of protection against contamination of food exposed for sale and in transit.

The following details are appended in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health in Circular 2/50:—

- (a) Total number of outbreaks: 4.
- (b) Number of cases: 11.
- (c) Number of deaths: Nil.
- (d) Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks attributable to each: Salmonella organisms 1 outbreak, (6 cases).
- (e) Foods involved with number of outbreaks associated with each food: Not ascertained.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

Although no extensive clean food campaign was carried out during the year, every opportunity was taken to address Women's Institutes and other organisations on this subject.

The best method of education is by direct contact with the food handlers themselves and the Sanitary Inspectors have done much good work in this connection.

RECENT FOOD LEGISLATION

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

MODEL FOOD BYELAWS, 1949.

During the year further useful powers were given to the Medical Officer of Health in respect of infected food handlers and the conditions under which food is sold and transported.

These powers added to those already operating under the National Insurance Act should make it easier to control the sale of infected food to the public.

SMALLPOX

Some anxiety was felt in June when notification was received that two contacts of the smallpox cases on the *S.S. Mooltan* had arrived in the district. Although working in this district, they were both actually living in the city. Close contact was maintained with the City Authorities who had the cases under daily surveillance. Fortunately neither of them developed the disease.

Following this incident an enquiry was made into the vaccinal state of the Council's staff and those members who were either unvaccinated or had not been done for many years were advised to seek adequate protection.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Much has been written lately about the number and type of accidents occurring in the home, particularly those affecting very young children and I was glad to have access to the figures for burns and scalds admitted to the Children's Hospital for the years 1947-49 inclusive.

There were 78 cases in all and it is alarming to note that 46 of them were caused during the preparation or eating of food, such as hot tea, boiling kettle or saucepan, hot gravy, milk, soup and semolina. The most dangerous age was 1-2 years, the stage of a child's first mobility (32 cases), the next in order were 2-3 years (15) and under 1 year (10). Thus 57 out of the total 78 were under the age of 3.

It does seem essential in view of the above that close attention be paid to the design of kitchens and cooking arrangements. The kitchen is the workshop of the housewife, but has of necessity to be at the same time the toddler's romping ground. It should not be impossible so to design our houses that a toddler may play in safety while his mother prepares food.

This is a question which might well be considered by the various women's organisations such as the Women's Institutes who should be in an excellent position to offer suggestions on this important matter.

WATER SUPPLY

The detailed account of the water supply of the district for 1949 is given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The necessity for a piped water supply to all villages becomes increasingly urgent. It is much deplored that even those schemes and extensions which have been given first priority have been delayed by shortage of materials and other circumstances outside the Council's control.

The number of potentially dangerous shallow wells in the district, the comparative drought of recent years and the extensive building programme all increase the anxiety about water supply felt by all concerned for the health of the population.

SEWERAGE

There is especial urgency about the sewerage schemes for the comparatively new but very thickly populated fringe parishes of Catton, Hellesdon and Sprowston and also for the ancient towns of Aylsham and Reepham.

A Ministry of Health enquiry has been held in respect of a scheme which includes part of the parish of Sprowston with the adjoining parish of Thorpe in the Rural District of Blofield and Flegg. A complete scheme for the remainder of Sprowston and the parishes of Catton and Hellesdon where the need is of equal urgency has not yet been finally formulated chiefly on account of the question of the route to be followed by the main trunk sewers to disposal works. The submitted scheme has not yet been approved and the Ministry has requested consultations between their Officers, the Consulting Engineers and Representatives of the District Councils, the County Council and the Norwich City Council. I hope it will soon be possible to resolve and overcome the difficulties which are preventing progress in sewerage the whole of these three parishes the extreme urgency of which cannot be overstressed.

Ministry of Health Inquiries have been held in respect of the sewerage schemes for Aylsham and Reepham and these schemes have been provisionally approved, but unfortunately owing to the reduction in capital expenditure it appears unlikely that either will be put into operation in the near future.

It will be impossible for many house owners to take proper advantage of the improvement grants under recent housing legislation unless water supply and main sewerage are made available to them in the near future.

HOUSING

There were about 300 less applicants on the waiting-list at the end than at the beginning of 1949, but only 91 houses were erected during the year compared with 139 in 1948. The reduction in the number of applicants must be partly accounted for by the finding of other accommodation, change

ADDENDA—On Page 9 before “Social Health,” add :—

HOUSING STATISTICS

WAITING LIST

Applicants at 31st December, 1948	...	...	...	1,617
Applicants at 31st December, 1949	..	...	...	1,307

ANALYSIS OF WAITING LIST

Families with two or less Children	..	..	..	1,147
Families with three or more Children	...	...	...	160
Agricultural Workers	..	..	...	253
Others	...	...	...	1,054

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

Position at 31st December, 1949

Pre-war	565		
Post-war	398	Total	963
Second Post Housing Programmes—Total proposed Houses			500

HOUSES ERECTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY DURING 1949

(a) Permanent	91	Total Houses	91
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EX-GOVERNMENT CAMPS

No. of Families occupying these Camps :—

At 31st December, 1948	208
At 31st December, 1949	207

Total number of Huts converted to Dwellings :—

At 31st December, 1949	206
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Total number of applicants housed in Camps from waiting list during 1949

...	37
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of circumstances and applications made to more than one authority. Although 1,307 families represent a formidable number of unsuitably housed people, it is some consolation to feel that the high water mark of demand may have been reached.

The increase in private building licences should remove still further applicants from the list for there is no doubt that there are many people who duly apply for Council Houses because no other accommodation is available and would prefer to build their own.

The figures show a further reduction in the proportion of the larger families still waiting for houses while the ratio of agricultural workers to others is still about 1:4.

ADD: The Councils decision to build a certain proportion of old people's flats may help to release family houses in which one or two old people are overhoused."

WAIT: Although the conversion of hutments has served a useful purpose in an emergency this type of dwelling cannot be regarded as anything but very temporary. It is to be hoped that it will be possible gradually to eliminate the less satisfactory type of Nissen Hut in the near future.

I am glad to report that a beginning has been made with the closing of the worst of the condemned property. Progress has been slow in this direction because of the difficulty of finding the occupants other accommodation, but as the housing situation improves, I hope the Council will be in a position to prevent more and more of the Grade V property from being used for human habitation.

High priority is being given to the "tuberculous" family as it is well known that good living conditions are one of the vital factors in the recovery of the case and the prevention of the spread of the disease amongst household contacts. Domestic overcrowding in particular has been shown to be closely related to the incidence of tuberculosis, but high priority of allocation, though important in itself will be of doubtful benefit if the rent absorbs too much of the family income to the detriment of nutrition. A special rebate is necessary in the case of the tuberculous family so that there is enough money available for the purchase of an ample diet.

To sum up the position, I can say that the speed of building new units of accommodation must be increased. If a simpler type of dwelling would house more families more quickly then this should be seriously considered in the interests of sound family life.

SOCIAL HEALTH

In my report for 1948 I gave a complete summary of the facilities existing for social activities in the various parishes. In 1949 further developments have taken place.

Village halls have been opened at Weston and Taverham and a playing-field at Rackheath. Buxton and Horsford are in the process of preparing a playground and a playing field. Hellesdon is very anxious for a community centre, but the plans are being somewhat held up owing to a further Educational Development Plan.

New activities include further educational development at Foulsham and evening institute classes at Crostwick.

I am hoping that at no distant date I shall be able to report adequate facilities existing in every parish and being put to very extensive use. It is interesting to note that those places in which local efforts have succeeded in providing halls, etc., there is more support for and interest in social activities than where they have been provided and equipped by a higher authority. For efficiency and real social health we probably need a combination of both methods.

CONCLUSION

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year. Low mortality from children's infectious disease indicates excellent child health and care but the tuberculosis figures suggest that the stress of life is bearing more heavily on some other age groups.

The main needs of the district still continue to be many more units of accommodation and the modern amenities of water supply and sewerage.

In conclusion, I acknowledge with gratitude the support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the ready helpfulness of officials of the Council at all times and the continued loyal co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) IRENE B. M. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	93,119
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,648
Population (estimated resident 1949)	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,240
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,660
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	£153,837
Estimated Net Produce of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£585

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar:—

							St. Faith's & Aylsham	England & Wales	
							1949	1948	1949
LIVE BIRTHS									
Legitimate	577	321	256	Birth rate per 1,000 of esti- mated resident population ...		16.50	18.3	16.7	
Illegitimate	25	10	15						
Total ...	602	331	271						
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births ...				...	...	16.3	20.8	—	
STILL BIRTHS									
Legitimate	9	6	3	Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popula- tion ...		0.27	0.39	0.39	
Illegitimate	1	1	Nil						
Total ...	10	7	3						
DEATHS									
Total ...	387	193	194	Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...		10.8	10.5	11.7	
Deaths from puerperal causes—0.									
INFANT DEATHS					Total	Males	Females		
Legitimate					20	17	3		
Illegitimate					—	—	—		
Totals					20	17	3		
					St. Faith's & Aylsham		England & Wales		
					1949	1948	1949		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...					33.22	35.0	32.0		
Ages at Death (Infants under 1 year)									
Ages					Males	Females	Total		
1st day ...					3	1	4		
1-7 days					7	—	7		
1-4 weeks					2	—	2		
1-3 months					2	2	4		
3-6 months					2	—	2		
6-9 months					—	—	—		
9-12 months					1	—	1		
Totals ...					17	3	20		

Causes of Death (Infants under 1 year)

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total—11						
Inevitable						
	Prematurity	...	...	6	—	6
	Congenital Defects	...	...	3	2	5
Total—1	Obstetrical Injury	...	...	1	—	1
Total—8						
Preventable						
	Infectious	...	...	3	—	3
Preventable						
	Accidental	...	...	4	1	5

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar-General:—

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes					193	194	387
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	—	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	4	4	8
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
9	Influenza	...	...	...	1	4	5
10	Measles	...	...	...	—	1	1
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	...	...	...	2	3	5
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	2	1	3
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	0	3	3
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	31	19	50
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
18	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	27	42	69
19	Heart Disease	...	...	...	51	57	108
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	7	12	19

21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9	0	9
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
29	Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	5	6	11
32	Congenital, Malformation, Birth Injury, etc.	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
35	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	9	2	11
36	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	21	17	38

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables: the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Admitted to</i>			<i>Notification Rate per</i>	
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>1,000 Population</i>	
				<i>St. Faith's & Aylsham</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
				1949	
Scarlet Fever	55	9	—	1.57	1.63
Whooping Cough	36	—	—	0.99	2.39
Measles	255	—	1	7.03	8.95
Pneumonia	25	—	9	0.68	0.80
Infective Jaundice	60	1	—		
Poliomyelitis	17	16	—		
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—		
Food Poisoning	11	—	—		
Dysentery	1	—	—		
Erysipelas	3	—	1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—		
	<u>465</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>11</u>		

<i>Disease</i>		<i>Ages</i>														<i>Total</i>	
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65			
Scarlet Fever	...	1	2	1	2	3	37	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	...	55	
Infective	Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	14	11	7	15	6	2	-	4	...	60	
Pneumonia	...	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	1	1	8	9	...	25	
Acute	Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	10	3	-	-	-	-	...	17	
Ophthalmia																	
	Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	...	1	
Puerperal	Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	...	1	
Dysentery	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	...	1	
Erysipelas	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	...	3	
Food	Poisoning	...	-	1	1	2	1	2	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	...	11
Measles	3	13	32	32	27	127	12	4	3	1	-	-	1	...	255
Whooping	Cough		2	2	6	2	5	16	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	...	36
Totals		...	8	18	40	38	38	201	32	24	26	10	6	8	16	...	465

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1949 are given in the following tables:—

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	4	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
15— ...	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—
25— ...	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35— ...	6	3	—	—	2	2	—	—
45— ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55— ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
65								
upwards	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16	11	4	4	4	4	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Type of Case</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Respiratory ...	...	...	...	...	75	62	137	
Non-Respiratory ...	...	...	...	...	35	36	71	
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	110	98	208	

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year 1949

I have the honour of presenting the following report for the year 1949 :—

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY AND OTHER WORK.

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	2,368
Revisits to ascertain progress of work	...	...	...	...	1,133
Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1,572
Revisits to ascertain progress of work	...	...	...	...	271
Inspections and revisits of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	75
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	...	181
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	24
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	353
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	277
Inspections of Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	40
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	36
Inspections of Provisions Shops	...	...	...	...	37
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	35
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	71
Inspections of Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	17
Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	31
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	...	...	...	...	948
Inspections of Sewers	...	...	...	...	79
Inspections of Sanitary Accommodation at Schools	...	...	...	...	26
Inspections of Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	6
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	86
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	32
Other visits interviewing owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	343
Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	1,721
Inspections in connection with the issue of Building Licences	...	...	...	...	331
Total	...	...	...	...	10,093

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION—

The following are the particulars of the work carried out in connection with Meat and Food Inspection during the year.

The number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughterhouse under the control of the Ministry of Food were as follows:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	1,807
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	588
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	2,580
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	472
						<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	5,447
						<hr/>

The following is a summary of the meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and the bracketed figures indicate the number which were affected with Tuberculosis:—

BEEF—

- 46 Carcases and all Offal (31)
- 20 Forequarters (17)
- 11 Hindquarters
- 1,953 lbs. Beef (620)
- 226 Heads (160)
- 217 Tongues (130)
- 606 Livers (26)
- 336 Parts Livers (8)
- 338 Sets Lungs (160)
- 58 Mesenteries (31)
- 21 Spleens (3)
- 1 Heart (1)
- 31 Kidneys (3)
- 5 Udders (3)
- 6 Tripes (3)
- 6 Stomachs (1)
- 4 Skirts
- 1 Tail

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Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Abscesses | Injuries |
| Actinomycosis | Melanosis |
| Angioma | Necrosis |
| Bone Taint | Nephritis |
| Cirrhosis | Oedema |
| Congestion | Pentastomum |
| Decomposition | Pneumonia |
| Distomatosis | Septicaemia |
| Echinococcus | Septic Pericarditis |

Fatty Infiltration
Fever
Fibrosis

Tumours
Uraemia

PORK—

26 Carcases and all Offal (4)
406½ lbs. Pork
25 Heads (21)
20 Sets Lungs (2)
6 Hearts
7 Livers
11 Mesenteries (4)
6 Tongues (2)
8 Sets Intestines
12 Plucks (4)
24 Kidneys
7 Forequarters
2 Spleens
6 Parts Livers

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Cirrhosis

Fever

Immaturity

Inflammation

Jaundice

Injuries

Oedema

Pneumonia

Swine Erysipelas

Swine Fever

MUTTON—

2 Whole Carcases and all Offal
11 lbs. Mutton
8 Sets Lungs
63 Livers
1 Pluck
2 Stomachs
2 Sets of Intestines
2 Forequarters

Reasons for condemnation were:—

Tuberculosis

Abscesses

Dropsy

Fever

Injuries

Parasites

Pneumonia

Inflammation

VEAL—

8 Whole Carcases and all Offal (1)
1 Set Lungs
24 lbs. Veal

- 4 Plucks
- 2 Forequarters
- 3 Heads

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Inflammation	Necrosis
Melanosis	Pyæma
Jaundice	Immaturity

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED—

- 20 Tins of Meat and Fish
- 109 Tins Milk
- 59 Tins Vegetables, etc.
- 41 lbs. 10 ozs. Beef
- 36 lbs. Corned Beef
- 13 lbs. Cheese
- 1 Bottle Tomato Ketchup
- 17 Bottles Salad Cream
- 4 Jars Chinese Mixed Fruits

ICE-CREAM PREMISES—

There are three manufacturers and forty-eight retailers on the Council's register. The manufacturers prepare ice-cream by the "hot mix" method. Thirty-nine of the retailers sell a prepacked product and the remaining nine sell loose ice cream.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLING—

The following is the record of the results of samples taken during the year. The Grades are those defined by Regulations, Grades I and II being regarded as satisfactory and Grades III and IV unsatisfactory.

<i>Manufacturer or Retailer</i>		<i>Heat Treated or Cold Mix</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Grade</i>
1.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Not decolourised in 4½ hours	I
2.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised 3 hours	... II
3.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised 4 hours	... II
4.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised immediately	IV
5.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised immediately	IV
6.	Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Not Decolourised ...	... I
7.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised 1½ hours	... III
8.	Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Decolourised immediately	IV
9.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised immediately	IV
10.	Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Decolourised 1½ hours	... III
11.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised immediately	IV
12.	Retailer (Prepacked)		Decolourised immediately	IV

It will be observed that all but four samples were classed as unsatisfactory, in spite of regular and particular attention being paid to ensure that premises are maintained in a clean condition.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There were 206 Cowkeepers and 17 Dairymen on the Council's register and 353 inspections were made at these premises during the year.

From 1st October, 1949, the registration and supervision of dairy farmers and dairy farms became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, while the registration of milk distributors (persons trading from premises other than a dairy farm) and other premises, remained the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Previous to the transfer, the cowsheds in the District had been under keen supervision by officers of the Council and considerable progress had been made each year improving the methods of milk production, and in general a good standard at the premises in the district had been attained.

We have now 17 Milk Distributors and 14 Dairy Premises in the district.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE

The year was treated as one of consolidation of the existing services preparatory to the extension of the scheme to cover the whole district.

During the year the Scavenging service covered 83 per cent of the district, the particulars being as follows:—

BY DIRECT LABOUR—

Aylsham, Booton, (The Street only) Brampton, Buxton with Lamas, Catton, Cawston, Coltishall, Drayton, Hellesdon, Hevingham, Horsford, Horstead, Marsham, Rackheath, Reepham, St. Faith's, Salhouse, Spixworth, Sprowston, Taverham, Gt. Witchingham, Wroxham. The removal of House Refuse and Night Soil.

Blickling—Squatters Camp. The removal of House Refuse only.

BY CONTRACT—

Foulsham. The removal of House Refuse and Night Soil.

The new Depot at Frettenham was put into use as a dumping ground on 1st September, and the use of the newly acquired Chaseside Mechanical Shovel materially assisted in ensuring that disposal was carried out in the approved manner for controlled tipping.

The buildings however, were not complete by the end of the year, and the garages at Sprowston were still being used.

Complete tidying of the old refuse tip at School Lane, Sprowston, was secured by covering in with a two-foot layer of earth obtained from the Highways Dept. of the County Council which required a tip for surplus soil in this locality.

During the year only 49 tons of Salvage were sold to the value of £238, a decrease of 100 tons on the preceding year. This drop was due in the main to the sudden failure of the Board Mills to accept any waste paper.

The demand for the Cesspool emptying service is steadily increasing as shown by the number of loads removed during the last five years:—

1945, 1,198;
1946, 1,685;
1947, 2,208;
1948, 3,127;
1949, 4,882.

Thy two cesspool emptiers were in constant use throughout the whole year and on occasions outside assistance had to be obtained in order to prevent the work falling into arrears. In consequence the Council decided to acquire another vehicle. A charge is made for the use of the vehicle, the rates being 15/- for the first load of 750 gallons and 10/- for each additional load or part of a load. It is regretted that circumstances make it essential to make these charges but to give a free service would impose a very heavy burden on the district. However, apart from this there is no doubt that the service is of very material assistance to householders in the district and the charges made are about equal to the operating costs.

WATER SUPPLIES

There were long periods of drought during the year which, following on previously dry years seriously affected the level of water in the shallow wells, and a number of wells became dry. Fortunately in most cases limited alternative supply could be obtained, and a stand pipe supply was made available in the parishes of Marsham and Aylsham at the nearest point on the mains from which certain outlying properties could obtain water. The situation, in general became very serious, and the wells did not make up to any appreciable degree during the winter months.

There is no doubt that the consumption of water in the many areas served only by shallow wells was cut down to the barest minimum with the consequent risk of danger to public health. It did not prove necessary for the Council to put into operation a system of carting water which can only be regarded as a palliative and could not be carried out on such a comprehensive basis as to provide a complete remedy, and it would prove difficult to meet the absolute minimum demands of affected households. In general the shallow well supplies just managed to hold out throughout the year, and as far as is known, the deep wells were not appreciably affected. Such a position emphasises the urgent need for a piped supply of water which could be more expeditiously provided by village schemes drawing from a deep well, rather than waiting for schemes serving a large area. If at any time it

becomes imperative to institute a system of carting water the cost involved would very quickly approach and equal the cost of a number of village schemes without providing any remedy for the existing unsatisfactory conditions.

The Norwich Corporation has been granted the powers as Statutory Water Undertakers in the 25 parishes set out below, and these parishes comprise 50.62 per cent of the total area of the district and contain 76.98 per cent of the total population.

x Aylsham	x Hevingham
Beeston St. Andrew	x Horsford
Belaugh	x Horstead
Brampton	x Marsham
Buxton	x Rackheath
x Catton	x Salhouse
x Coltishall	Spixworth
Crostwick	x Sprowston
x Drayton	Stratton Strawless
Frettenham	x St. Faith's
Hainford	Taverham
x Hellesdon	Tuttington
	x Wroxham

Of these 25 parishes 14 marked x have mains laid to points sufficient to meet the needs of the main centres of population, but in some of these there are smaller groups of houses which are not served by the mains. During the year mains were laid to meet the needs of the parishes of Horsford, Rackheath and Salhouse.

The Council requested the Norwich Corporation to proceed with the preparation of details for submission to the Ministry of Health for extending the mains to the parishes of Buxton, Frettenham, Hainford, Spixworth and Taverham, and for extension of existing mains in the parishes of Aylsham, Drayton, Horstead, Marsham and St. Faith's as a first stage towards the provision of a supply throughout The Norwich Corporation area of supply.

The following are the 23 parishes in which the Council retains the powers to supply water :—

Alderford	Guestwick
Attlebridge	Haveringland
Blickling	Heydon
Booton	Honingham
Brandiston	Morton
Cawston	Oulton
Felthorpe	Reepham
Foulsham	Ringland

Sall
Swannington
Themelthorpe

Weston Longville
Witchingham Great
Witchingham Little
Wood Dalling

The parishes comprise 49.38 per cent of the area of the district, but the population is only 23.02 per cent of that for the whole district. The majority of the wells in this area are shallow.

A comprehensive scheme for the supply of water in the area comprised by these parishes with a principal source of supply in the parish of Gt. Witchingham with ancillary supplies from existing borewells at Blickling and Foulsham has been prepared. However, this is a long term project, and the Council is in favour of providing supplies in village and smaller areas, and each scheme so designed that the mains can be linked up to form part of the ultimate comprehensive scheme. With this latter object in view, a scheme has been prepared covering the parishes of Foulsham and Themelthorpe, and another for the parish of Honingham and both these schemes have been approved in principle by the Ministry of Health. A scheme for the supply of the village of Lenwade in the parish of Gt. Witchingham was submitted to the Ministry and a decision is awaited.

The provision of a piped supply is under consideration for the parishes of Cawston and Reepham, and proposals have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for the sinking of a borewell as a source of supply in the parish of Sall which is situated between these two parishes.

It is anticipated there will be a copious yield from this well and that possibly it may prove to be a better source and sufficient for the ultimate comprehensive scheme instead of that as originally proposed at Gt. Witchingham where the works of exploration have been deferred pending the sinking and testing of the new borewell.

At Weston Longville where the Council proposes sinking a new borewell for the Council estate, provision is to be made for affording a supply to the small centre of population in the immediate vicinity.

It is the practice of the Council to provide borewells on the new housing sites and in a number of cases it has been possible to give supplies to other adjoining properties. The two schemes for Gt. Witchingham and Honingham as mentioned above have their source from existing new borewells on the Council's housing sites and every possible use of such existing and future wells as a source of supply for the villages in which they are situated warrants consideration.

SEWERAGE

Little progress was made in the provision of sewers in the district. There are existing at Aylsham, Coltishall, Foulsham and Reepham, a system of old sewers which were no doubt originally intended to act as surface water

drains only, but drains from houses and other premises have been connected from time to time. Many of these sewers are leaky and all discharge to ditches communicating with rivers and streams. During the dry summer a number of complaints were received of foul odours from the sewers which was often found to be caused by the evaporation of the water seal in the road gullies.

In the now densely populated area of Catton, Hellesdon and Sprowston the drainage is discharged to cesspools, and the need for a proper sewerage system becomes increasingly urgent.

A public enquiry by the Ministry of Health was held on the 10th November in respect of the proposed sewerage schemes at Aylsham and Reepham, and these schemes were provisionally approved, and it is to be hoped that it will be possible soon for the Council to receive authority to proceed with the work. By the end of the year notice was received of a public enquiry to be held in respect of the scheme for part of Sprowston but the scheme has not yet received approval. It is hoped that it will be possible soon to overcome the difficulties that are deferring the completion of the preparation of the scheme to cover the parishes of Catton and Hellesdon and the remainder of the parish of Sprowston.

The Council requested its Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme to serve the parish of Wroxham in conjunction with the contiguous parish of Hoveton in the Rural District of Smallburgh.

Wherever possible the Council provides small sewerage schemes for their new housing sites which are an improvement on the cesspool type of drainage. Such schemes have been prepared by this department and provided to nine sites in the parishes of Attlebridge, Felthorpe, Hellesdon, Marsham, St. Faith's, Sprowston, Swannington and Tuttington.

HOUSING

The high cost of repairs and maintenance of the older existing houses is still preventing anything more than absolutely essential repairs being carried out and the situation in general prohibits at present the condemnation of any house which is capable of providing a home no matter how far it falls below the standard of the new houses. As a result of the shortage of houses a number of applications are now being received for Licences to station caravans or other moveable dwellings on sites. Many such applications are received from applicants who wish to occupy a caravan on the land they have acquired until such time as they receive a Licence to build a new house. The number of Licences issued in respect of moveable dwellings during the year was seven and the number of applications received is steadily increasing. The use of caravans as housing is not altogether satisfactory and it is undesirable amid existing development but it would be unfair to the applicants to attempt to group these dwellings on a small number of sites. It, therefore, presents another aspect of the general housing problem.

During the year the Council dealt with seven unfit houses making Demolition Orders in respect of two and accepting undertakings in respect of the other five that they would not be used for habitation.

Progress was made with the Housing Survey and 1,177 houses were inspected.

Altogether 4,160 houses have now been inspected and classified as follows:—

Class I.	Houses suitable in all respects for habitation ...	...	392
II.	Houses with minor defects ...	...	520
III.	Houses needing repairs, structural alterations and improvements ...	...	1,807
IV.	Houses suitable for reconditioning under "Housing Rural Workers" Acts ...	...	803
V.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense ...	...	638

BUILDING LICENCES

The following is a summary of the work involved in connection with the issue of Building Licences during the year. The Council has still a long list of outstanding applications for Licences for the erection of new houses in addition to the number received during the year as set out below:—

NEW HOUSES—

No. of houses for which applications for Building Licences were received ...	...	80
No. of houses for which Licences were issued ...	...	30
No. of proposed houses for which Licences were refused ...	...	50

REPAIR OF HOUSES AND OTHER WORK—

No. of applications received ...	...	154
No. of applications refused ...	...	13
No. of Licences issued ...	...	141

MAINTENANCE LICENCES—

No. of applications received ...	...	Nil
No. of applications refused ...	...	Nil
No. of Licences issued ...	...	Nil

In addition to the above 32 recommendations were made to the Regional Licensing Officer of the Ministry of Works as to the issue of Licences.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 21 Bakehouses in the district, 36 visits of inspection have been made. It is gratifying to be able to record it was not necessary to serve any notices in connection with these premises.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

During the year 153 notices have been served in connection with Public Health and Housing defects, and as a result the following works have been carried out:—

HOUSING—

Sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Piped water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Pumps to wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Well covers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
New pails provided to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rainwater guttering provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rainwater guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Window frames made to open	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Doors and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Coppers and ovens repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

DRAINAGE—

Ditches and watercourses cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

MISCELLANEOUS—

Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Slaughterhouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman, Members of the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, for their support and to each member of the staff for their unfailing co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant.

(Signed) H. S. HAWKINS.

TUDOR HALL,

ROSE LANE, NORWICH.

